

Frequently Asked Questions about Invasive Plant Species in the Garden



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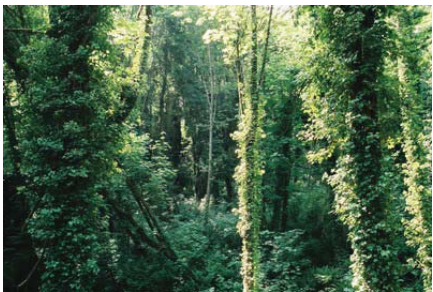
Why are invasive plants a problem?

They crowd out native plants, insects and animals, and can lead to flooding, fire and crop losses. Invasive species are a leading threat to biodiversity, second only to habitat destruction. Invasive plants are expensive, too - in California, more than \$85 million goes to fighting invasive species every year.

- 1 DON'T PLANT INVASIVES.
- 2 BUY BEAUTIFUL NON-INVASIVE ALTERNATIVES.
- 3 SPREAD THE WORD! SHARE THESE MATERIALS.

Benefits of Planting Right

We have a powerful opportunity to protect California's natural resources, since more than half of invasive plants got their start in gardens and landscaping. The horticultural community can effectively address the serious and expensive problem of invasive plants.



Invasive species, if left uncontrolled, can and will limit land use now and into the future.



Environmental stewards removing the invasive plant Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Are there alternatives to invasive species?

Yes! There are many excellent plant species that can replace an invasive species in a garden or landscape. Learning about invasives is an invitation to be creative and promote new plants to customers.



Calamagrostis nutkaens nootka reedgrass is a native plant suitable for replacing pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*)

How do invasive plants get into natural areas?

Of the invasive plants in California that we know how they were introduced, 3/4 of these were introduced through the nursery industry.



Pampas grass in redwood forest following timber harvest practices.

Many non-invasive alternative plants offer additional benefits:

Lower's water consumption, fewer fertilizer requirements and attracting wildlife. If you live in a fire zone, planting non-invasive fire-safe plants can help protect your home and property from the dangers of wildfire.



Every smart gardening choice makes a real difference to wildlife in California. You can protect native plants and the animals that rely on them by growing beautiful non-invasive landscapes.

References

- <http://www.plantright.org/>
- <http://www.invasive.org>
- Planitgreen.com
- Streamlineplanning.net

FILLING THE NICHE ALTERNATIVES FOR NON-NATIVE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN



DID YOU KNOW?

These plants are escaping our gardens & outcompete native plants?

butterfly bush
Buddleja davidii



Spanish heather
Erica lusitanic



evening primrose
Oenothera glazioviana



English ivy
Hedra helix



OR

periwinkle
Vinca major



foxglove
Digitalis purpurea



orange cotoneaster
Cotoneaster franchetii



Scotch Broom
Cytisus scoparius



WHY?

Disease and pest resistant

Increases biodiversity

Native communities prevent invasion

Naturally beautiful landscapes

Promotes rainwater infiltration

Requires low maintenance

Root systems hold soil in place

Saves money

Wildlife habitat value



INSTEAD TRY THESE! aesthetically compatible alternative plants!

red-flowering currant
Ribes sanguineum



rhododendron
Rhododendron macrophyllum



red elderberry
Sambucus racemosa



twinberry
Lonicera involucrata



checkerbloom
Sidalcea malviflora



indian plum
Oemlaria cerasiformis



goldenrod
Solidago californica



yarrow
Achillea millefolium



California aster
Aster chilensis



kinnikinnik
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi



piggy back plant
Tolmiea menziesii



wild ginger
Asarum caudatum



larkspur
Delphinium



beardtongue
Penstemon heterophyllus



Douglas iris
Iris douglasiana



blueblossom
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus



silk tassel
Garrya elliptica



toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia



salal
Gaultheria shallon



Oregon grape
Berberis aquifolium



dogwood
Cornus sericea



If we all act together, we can make a real difference for Humboldt Bay and the surrounding environment!

